



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending April 25, 2010

Issued weekly, April-November

Released April 26, 2010, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent Week for Field Work: Weather conditions for the majority of the week were favorable for the continuation of spring activities. Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: plowing, tillage, manure hauling and spreading, and corn and soybean planting. Spring plowing continues, and is 62% completed, ahead of last year's estimate of 49% and the average of 58%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 25, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
3	25	70	2

Crop Progress: Corn is 18% planted, well ahead of last year's 6% and the average of 13%. Corn emergence is 1%, the same as the average. Barley headed is 22%, ahead of the average estimate of 11%. Oats are 76% planted, ahead of both last year's and the average of 63% and 65%, respectively. Thirty-five percent of oats have emerged which is ahead of last year's estimate of 29% and the average of 20%. Soybeans are 4% planted, ahead of both last year's and the average estimates of 1%. Tobacco beds are 100% planted, which is also ahead of last year's 84%, and the average of 68%. Potatoes are 17% planted, ahead of both last year's 5% and the average of 16%. Apples are 95%, in pink which is ahead of last year's 56% and the average of 57%. Apples are 93% in full bloom, ahead of last year's estimate of 27% and the average estimate of 26%.

Crop Condition: State-wide wheat condition is 1% very poor, 3% poor, 23% fair, 60% good, and 13% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 3% poor, 17% fair, 61% good, and 19% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 61% good, and 14% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 2% very poor, 15% poor, 35% fair, 39% good and 9% excellent. Peach conditions are 81% good and 19% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 18, 2010: Heavy rain soaked the south-central United States, slowing or halting fieldwork but maintaining abundant to locally excessive moisture reserves for pastures, winter wheat, and emerging summer

crops. Rain briefly spread as far east as the Dakotas and the upper Midwest, but the remainder of the Corn Belt experienced a very warm, mostly dry week, with many locations reporting temperatures more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. As a result, corn planting and other spring fieldwork quickly advanced, despite a few late-week showers. Summer crop planting also continued across the South. However, rain was needed in much of the South to promote germination and growth of emerging crops. Meanwhile, occasional frost in the northern Mid-Atlantic region was a concern with respect to fruit crops, many of which had bloomed during an early-April heat wave. Elsewhere, Northwestern producers also monitored fruit trees and other temperature-sensitive crops, following early-April freezes. Throughout the West, a cool, showery weather regime yielded to warm, mostly dry conditions by week's end, allowing fieldwork to resume. Early in the week, heavy precipitation fell in the West Coast States. Between areas of stormy weather, warmth expanded across the Nation's midsection. On the northern High Plains, the early-week Western storm evolved into a significant spring snowfall. Meanwhile, heavy rains erupted across the south-central United States. **Corn:** Nationally, 19 percent of the 2010 corn crop was planted by week's end, 14 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Aided by warm, mostly dry weather; planting progressed rapidly during the week. Most notably, producers in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas planted 22 percent or more of their crop during the week. **Winter Wheat:** Heading was evident in 6 percent of the Nation's winter wheat crop, 7 percentage points behind last year and 5 percentage points behind the 5 year average. Overall, 69 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 4 percentage points from ratings last week and 26 percentage points better than a year ago. **Oats:** Seeding of the 2010 oat crop advanced to 63 percent by April 18, seventeen percentage points ahead of last year and 16 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Double-digit seeding progress was made in all estimating States except North Dakota. Emergence was evident in 36 percent of this year's crop, 7 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 25, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 25, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	70	31	47	-2	0.74	2	1.96	-0.75	9	152	134	343
Franklin	67	31	48	0	0.54	2	1.40	-1.53	7	120	102	317
Meadville	66	30	47	1	0.54	1	1.37	-1.38	8	120	109	313
Mercer	67	31	49	0	0.47	1	1.27	-1.56	7	132	115	334
Springboro	68	26	45	-4	0.64	2	1.40	-1.23	9	112	91	277
Warren	69	29	46	-2	0.61	1	1.11	-1.82	7	108	96	298
North Central												
Bradford Region	64	22	44	-2	0.60	1	1.06	-1.73	7	94	89	256
Oswayo	69	22	45	-2	0.74	2	1.73	-0.87	7	74	65	224
Kane	66	24	43	-2	0.63	2	0.93	-2.07	6	62	57	213
Laporte	63	31	47	-2	0.61	4	1.58	-1.10	11	105	79	290
Lock Haven	71	32	52	2	0.68	2	1.05	-1.48	4	155	127	379
Port Allegany	66	25	45	-2	0.45	1	1.28	-1.32	6	84	75	250
Renovo	70	32	51	1	0.45	1	0.77	-1.76	4	140	112	365
Ridgway	68	26	45	-2	0.56	2	1.09	-1.73	7	82	75	250
Stevenson Dam	70	31	49	4	0.54	1	1.35	-1.47	4	113	106	329
Towanda	69	29	48	-2	0.42	1	1.13	-1.25	5	106	81	305
Wellsboro	64	28	46	2	0.52	2	1.00	-0.90	5	93	86	277
Williamsport	71	34	53	3	0.65	2	1.14	-1.54	5	207	161	445
Northeast												
Hawley	69	28	47	0	0.79	1	2.57	-0.26	7	73	63	251
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	30	50	-2	0.66	2	1.34	-1.08	6	160	130	370
Susquehanna	67	31	48	3	0.52	2	1.43	-1.54	7	92	84	286
West Central												
Butler	67	30	49	-2	0.31	2	1.42	-1.22	9	115	87	315
New Castle	71	30	50	2	0.44	1	1.57	-0.93	9	143	127	354
Slippery Rock	71	30	50	3	0.55	1	1.49	-1.10	8	139	126	348
Central												
Altoona/Blair	67	33	50	-2	0.21	2	1.12	-1.50	6	175	134	384
DuBois	66	30	49	1	0.41	1	1.09	-1.66	6	159	144	368
Lewistown	72	36	52	-1	0.30	2	1.16	-1.24	6	165	111	392
Middletown	72	40	54	0	0.35	2	1.02	-1.62	5	200	132	437
Prince Gallitzi	68	27	47	-2	0.24	1	1.43	-2.07	6	105	89	303
Selinsgrove	70	34	50	-1	0.39	2	1.16	-1.47	5	137	98	364
State College	68	35	51	2	0.34	1	0.62	-1.79	6	176	148	394
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	35	52	1	0.84	3	2.27	-0.60	7	157	111	384
Lehighton	71	34	52	1	0.77	1	2.02	-0.63	6	140	100	363
Matamoras	69	33	50	-1	0.54	1	1.64	-1.62	5	103	73	314
Mt_Pocono	64	29	48	3	0.84	2	2.41	-0.94	5	106	100	301
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	68	36	54	3	0.37	1	0.82	-1.80	5	240	199	456
Indiana_PA	66	31	49	-3	0.34	1	1.23	-1.77	6	133	95	343
Myersdale	63	28	45	-5	0.36	2	1.53	-1.72	6	76	51	247
Mount Pleasant	70	30	50	3	0.23	1	1.18	-2.24	6	155	141	355
Pittsburgh Intl	68	32	52	1	0.47	1	1.01	-1.59	6	220	171	434
Connellsville	72	34	52	1	0.24	2	1.32	-1.84	7	189	138	401
Waynesburg	74	31	51	2	0.25	2	1.07	-1.80	6	151	117	352
South Central												
Biglerville	70	36	52	-3	0.25	1	1.16	-1.60	6	184	116	410
Everett	69	32	49	-2	0.26	1	1.53	-1.20	7	120	87	329
Hanover	70	34	51	-3	0.29	2	1.22	-1.54	7	179	111	403
Harrisburg_AP	72	37	53	-2	0.38	1	1.04	-1.60	4	198	128	429
South Mountain	66	31	48	-4	0.30	1	1.44	-1.18	4	127	89	328
York	70	33	50	-4	0.28	2	1.14	-1.85	6	156	87	377
Southeast												
Green Lane	71	37	53	2	0.52	2	1.52	-1.53	6	173	132	409
Hamburg	72	37	54	5	0.46	1	1.65	-1.45	3	182	156	415
West_Chester	73	34	52	-2	0.54	2	1.71	-1.44	5	160	96	392
Lancaster	72	36	52	0	0.36	2	1.12	-1.71	6	167	118	394
Neshaminy Falls	72	35	53	2	0.83	2	1.72	-1.57	7	166	118	404
New Holland	72	35	53	1	0.46	3	1.88	-0.95	7	195	146	421
Philadelphia	72	46	57	4	0.54	3	1.35	-1.65	9	254	176	501
Philadelphia NE	72	40	55	2	0.60	6	1.59	-1.41	13	215	137	459
Reading	73	38	54	4	0.49	1	1.47	-1.66	5	212	173	450
Sellersville	71	34	52	0	0.62	2	1.71	-1.34	7	149	108	374
Willow Grove	71	39	54	3	0.62	3	1.49	-1.80	8	204	156	444

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
 Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
 Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
 Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), Refarmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney - Adams County had a variety of weather conditions this week. Monday and Tuesday started with frost and daytime was sunny and in the 50s. Wednesday was cooler with some sporadic rain showers but no accumulation. Thursday was extremely foggy in the 40s and daytime temperatures rose to 60. They are forecasting some rainfall over the weekend. The county is pretty dry for this time of the year. Groundwater table seems to be okay but soil moisture is very dry. Producers in the county have started to plant corn and soybeans. Wheat and barley are growing but still not looking too good. Some oats still being planted and other oats have emerged. Hay is starting to grow also. All crops need some moisture to continue their progress. All fruit trees have either bloomed now or are currently blooming. Apple blossoms may be over by the time the Adams County Fruitgrowers have their Annual Apple Blossom Festival on May 8-9. Strawberries are blooming. Some producers said the cold temperatures that caused frost the past few weeks have affected the strawberries for this year.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - It still appears to be a two week early season. There has been no appreciable damage from the frosty mornings to date. We seem to have had enough favorable days for apple pollination.

BUCKS COUNTY, Austin Drager - This week was ideal for spring field work. The soil conditions were optimal and producers are gearing up for the majority of planting this week and early May. Most producers are being patient as it is still early in the planting season. This week's showers were welcome and needed.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - It was a good week for field work. It was cool and dry most of the week. Late Sunday afternoon presented a shower of hail the size of peas. Not once but twice.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This week was a great opportunity for continuing field work. The rain late Saturday totaled about half an inch.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It was a great week for field work. There were quite a few acres of oats that were planted. A few brave farmers took the risk and planted some corn. Pasture conditions are rapidly improving with the little rain showers that occurred throughout the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - Most of the manure stored in the winter has been applied to the fields. Many acres of new seeding of spring barley and oats have been planted. Corn planters were at also at work.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a dry week not exceptionally warm. Apples are past full bloom in most areas. Peaches have set well, however there are some pockets of frost damage. It was a good week for all types of spring field work, including planting corn, alfalfa, oats, spreading fertilizer, seed bed preparation and even cutting some rye for green chop. Pastures are showing some signs of need for rain.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeff Graybill - The soil is getting dry on top. We will need a nice rain to help uniform emergence on late planted alfalfa and oats.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - As of Saturday afternoon we have received no rain. The crops could use an inch of rainfall. Sweet corn growers are reporting four to five inches of growth - sweet corn under covers. Some of the early sprayed herbicides could also use some rain to activate the chemicals.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - It was an excellent week for field work. It was the driest soil conditions we have seen in maybe over a year. Those farmers that were planning on working ground did most of their primary tillage. Some corn was planted but many notillers decided to wait until the cool rain passes and we are closer to May 1st. Nice steady rain totaling less than an inch has been welcomed to keep the hay and small grain crops growing.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Viola Pfleegor - This week we had three-fourth inches of rain.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - There were several mornings with frosts in some areas. Thursday we had nearly two tenths of an inch of rain. The crops are looking good in spite of the lack of rainfall. The oats have emerged and are doing well. The main activities for the week were plowing, seeding, spraying and spreading fertilizer and manure.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - Ground conditions are very dry and very warm for April in the county. Some corn was planted on Friday and Saturday and some much needed rain arrived Saturday night into Sunday. Pastures and hay fields improved with the moisture.

TIOGA COUNTY, Sherri Butters, (FSA) - Hay did not grow this week due to several frosts on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Friday morning temperatures dropped to the mid 20s. Heavy frost on the ground on the morning of April 23 may cause severe damage for a few apple producers. Plows are busy as the ground continues to dry out.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler - Almost all types of spring field work was taking place during the week. Manure hauling, some tillage, and burndown applications for no-till crops were occurring this week. Cold mornings are keeping soil temperatures low for major corn and soybean planting. Lack of soil moisture may cause germination problems especially with soybeans.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump - The rains this past week will help with the dry condition in the county.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Another excellent week for field work. Operations included tillage, manure hauling, some early corn and soybean planting, and fertilizer application.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl - Planters were rolling but clods and seed furrow compaction indicated soil conditions were still marginal in some planted fields. This was apparent especially in fields with high residue cover.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 25, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	62	49	58
Corn, planted	18	6	13
Corn, emerged	1	0	1
Barley, heading or headed	22	0	11
Soybeans, planted	4	1	1
Oats, planted	76	63	6
Oats, emerged	35	29	20
Tobacco beds, planted	100	84	68
Potatoes, planted	17	5	16
Apples, in pink	95	56	57
Apples, in full bloom or past	93	27	26

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 25, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	23	60	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	17	61	19
Timothy clover stand	1	3	21	61	14
Pasture	2	15	35	39	9
Peaches	0	0	0	81	19

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

United States
Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Pennsylvania Field Office
 2301 N Cameron St Room G-19
 Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

FIRST-CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USDA PERMIT NO. G-38
